

LEARNING METHOD AND APPARATUS

Field of the Invention

This invention pertains to a reinforced, self-instructional learning method and to apparatus useful in the practice of such method.

5 More particularly, the method is specially adapted to instilling in the mind of the user a series of concepts, by repetitive sequential visual exposure to a series of visible representations of each of a plurality of such concepts.

10 These and other, further and more specific aspects of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the following description thereof, taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 depicts a typical book carrier embodying various elements of apparatus of the invention;

15 Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the apparatus of Fig. 1, taken along section line 2-2 thereof.

Fig. 3 depicts the book carrier or briefcase of Figs. 1 and 2, opened to show the details of the interior thereof;

Fig. 4 is an exterior view of a purse or handbag, embodying the invention;

Fig. 5 is an exterior view of a backpack, embodying the invention;

Fig. 6 depicts an exterior view of an attache case, embodying the invention;

and

5 Fig. 7 depicts a picture frame, embodying the invention; and

Fig. 8 depicts a decorative table box, embodying the invention.

Background of the Invention and the Prior Art

Professional educators have long understood that an effective way of teaching
a body of information to a student is to break the information into smaller discrete
10 elements and present these elements repetitively and sequentially to the student.

Indeed, the repetitive use of so-called “flash cards” as self-education tools is a
common example of this technique.

Moreover, it is known to provide common personal use items, such as luggage
and the like with windows for the display of information such as the owner’s name
15 and address or decorative items, such as photographs, drawings, etc. For example, it
is well known to provide a suitcase, attache case, computer carrying case, etc. with an
integral pocket having a transparent side, into which one can insert a business card or

equivalent card with written information indicating the owner's name, address, employer, etc.

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The present invention uses the general educational technique of repetitive self-instruction, employing a new combination of physical elements, which provides a convenient and effective method for enhancing learning of multiple concepts by a user.

Brief Description of the Invention

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Briefly, my reinforced-learning system employs a series of visible representations of a series of concepts to be learned by the user by repetitive visual exposure of the representations to the user. A common-use article is provided having a visible surface. A transparent window is carried on the visible surface of the common-use article. A pocket is carried by the article behind the window. A plurality of cards are provided, each carrying at least one of the visible representations. These cards are shaped and sized to be inserted into the pocket with the representation carried by the card is visible through the window.

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Using this apparatus, the method of instilling these concepts in the mind of the user comprises inserting a first one of the cards into the pocket behind the window, repetitively observing the first card through the window, removing the first card and replacing it with another of the plurality of cards and then repeating this process of inserting a new card and repetitively observing it by the user.

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Definitions

As used herein the term "common-use article" includes a wide variety of items that a user has occasion to observe at multiple times during the course of the user's normal activities. For example, such items include normally portable items such as purses, briefcases, book covers, backpacks and the like, as well as normally non-portable items such as picture frames, decorative boxes, wall hangings and the like, which are not carried by the user, but which are normally prominently visible on multiple occasions in the user's normal environment, e.g., in the home, office or automobile.

10 "Visible representation" means indica carried on a card suitable for insertion behind the window on the common use article. The indicia can be handwritten or printed and can include words, pictures, scientific formulae and combinations thereof suitable to visibly represent the concept to be impressed on the brain of the user of the common-use article.

15 **Detailed Description of the Invention and the Presently Preferred Embodiments**

Turning now to the drawings, in which like reference characters identify the same elements in the several views, Figs. 1-3 depicts a book cover 10, one side 11 of which is provided with a window 12 sewn or otherwise permanently affixed to the side 11. A card 13 is inserted downwardly in the direction of the arrow A into the pocket 14 carried by the cover 10, behind the window 12, so that indicia on the face of

the card is visible through the window 12. The card 13 (shown by dashed lines in Fig. 3) is retained in place behind the window 12 by the pocket forming member 15, also carried by the cover 10. Optionally, the cover 10 can also include a second pocket forming member , which forms a pocket 17, which is used to store other cards (not shown) which are ultimately placed behind the window 12 to display further concepts represented by visible representations.

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Figs. 4-8 illustrate other common use items which are constructed to embody the apparatus of the invention and which are used according to the method of the invention. Fig. 4 depicts a typical ladies purse or handbag 41. Fig. 5 depicts a backpack 51. Fig. 6 depicts an attache case 61. Fig. 7 depicts a decorative box which might be placed on a table or desk. Each of these common use items is provided with the window and the interior details are the same as shown in Figures 2-3.

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Having described my invention in such terms as to enable one skilled in the art to understand and practice it and, having disclosed the presently preferred embodiments thereof, I CLAIM: